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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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~~SECRET~~ USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

DATE DISTR 7 March 1952

SUBJECT Zircon Mine near Dmitriyevka

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Zircon Mine was 0.5 km east of Dmitriyevka, about 30 km from Stalino (40° 04' / 37° 43'). The mining district, covering an area of about 4 x 2 km, was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and guarded by armed militia. The only entrance to this area was in the direction of Dmitriyevka. All the mine buildings were two-story structures built in two rows, each about 1 km long, one on each of the main road in the Zircon District. The work force totaled about 200 men, including about 50 P.V's.
2. The Zircon mines were all open-pit mines. The zircon was loaded into mine cars by grab cranes and then taken to the shaking sieves where the zircon remained on the sieve after the sifting process. Zircon, a solid reddish rock material about the size of an egg, was prismatic in shape and occurred in small uniform lumps with edges as smooth as if they were ground. Even glass could be cut with this solid rock material. The weekly output at the mine was about 15 tons. Four large shaking sieves were in the pit covered by a roof. A field railroad ends there. Four grab cranes were used for removing the stones. These cranes, of Barrikada type, had a bucket capacity of about 1.5 cubic meters.
3. The rock produced was packed in 80-kg sacks sealed with lead. The packing and outgoing shipments were done under strict control and guard. The civilian population was prohibited from taking zircon rock pieces. The rail shipments left for Moscow, Leningrad and the Ural area. Dmitriyevka had no railroad connection. Rock shipments were trucked to the Snezhnoye railroad station about 10 km northwest of Dmitriyevka.

4. the mine in June 1945 work was done exclusively by hand.

* ☐ Comment. No other information had been received on zirconium deposits and mining in Lembitryevka. Large deposits are known to exist on the Kola Peninsula, near Lariupol (Ukraine) (47°05'N/37°31'E) and near Kizina, a Salda (Urals) (58°05'N/60°43'E). Zirconium is used in the Soviet Union especially as an admixture in refined steel production for desulphurizing and deacidifying.

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